

# Nontraditional Employment for Women Career Assessment Survey

## What is a Nontraditional Job?

Nontraditional jobs for women are any jobs that we most often see men doing; i.e., carpenter, auto mechanic, welder, printer, maintenance mechanic, milker, computer repair technician, cable installers, pest controller, and truck driver. These jobs usually offer higher wages, good benefits and career ladders.

## Women can do these jobs, too! Would you be interested?

(Circle 1 if you like to do these activities, 2 if you are willing to do them although not very interested in them, and 3 if you don't like to do them.)

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1) Work with your hands?   | 1.....2.....3 |
| 2) Make repairs round the house?   | 1.....2.....3 |
| 3) Fix outlets, radios, stereos?   | 1.....2.....3 |
| 4) Work outdoors?  | 1.....2.....3 |
| 5) Drive cars, vans, farm equipment?                                       | 1.....2.....3 |
| 6) See concrete results from your work?                                    | 1.....2.....3 |
| 7) Solve technical problems/puzzles?                                       | 1.....2.....3 |
| 8) Work from a pattern, blueprint, or diagram to construct or make things? | 1.....2.....3 |
| 9) Paint, wallpaper, fill in holes in the walls?                           | 1.....2.....3 |

**Total your interest score:**\_\_\_\_\_

If your total score is less than 20, a nontraditional job may be for you!

## Having the Requisites

While many nontraditional jobs require skills, these skills can be gained in a wide variety of ways. For example, did you know:

- Following a sewing pattern employs the same skills as reading a blueprint that welders use, or reading a schematic drawing for building a house?
- A driver's license may be the first step toward an exciting career in the transportation field or heavy equipment operation?
- Following a recipe for a meal is similar to following instructions for repairing a copy machine or mixing cement?

The following activities utilize skills which are transferable to nontraditional jobs. (Check things you may have done that help toward success in nontraditional jobs.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Worked in a nontraditional job before as a paid worker, volunteer, or as a hobby.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Received a high school diploma or GED.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtained your driver's license.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Traveled and enjoyed going from place to place.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Used tools to build or repair items in your home or apartment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Worked on your car or someone else's.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Done handiwork such as knitting, embroidery or other crafts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Followed a pattern in sewing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Regularly participated in a sport or worked out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Planted and maintained a successful garden.

### Survey Continued

- \_\_\_\_\_ Fixed a broken television, radio or computer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Entered/completed a trade school program for a vocational skill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Driven/fixed farm machinery.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Used power tools/built a piece of furniture.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Followed a recipe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Worked independently, with little supervision.

**Total number of answers checked:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have checked 3 or more of the above items, a nontraditional job may be for you. If you have checked 4 or more, you're already on your way! Your assessment counselor can provide you with more details on how other skills you may possess transfer to a nontraditional job.

**Some women are unhappy doing work that other women enjoy. Do you dislike:** (Check those you don't like to do.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Working at a desk all day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Working with groups of children.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Working with sick people in hospitals or nursing homes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dealing regularly with the public in a store or restaurant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Helping others solve their personal or family problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Working indoors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Working in one place all day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Answering questions and referring people to other sources of information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Completing written projects.

## Survey Continued

\_\_\_\_\_ Using the same equipment all the time.

\_\_\_\_\_ Work in which you rarely use your physical strength.

\_\_\_\_\_ Receiving lots of supervision and feedback on your work.

**Total number of answers checked:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have checked 2 or more of these activities, a nontraditional job may be for you.

## Nontraditional Jobs

Check those jobs which sound most interesting to you:

\_\_\_\_\_ computer repair technician

\_\_\_\_\_ carpenter

\_\_\_\_\_ plumber

\_\_\_\_\_ irrigation technician

\_\_\_\_\_ cable installer

\_\_\_\_\_ household appliance repairer

\_\_\_\_\_ bricklayer

\_\_\_\_\_ welder

\_\_\_\_\_ milker

\_\_\_\_\_ machinist

\_\_\_\_\_ auto mechanic

\_\_\_\_\_ cabinet maker

\_\_\_\_\_ printer

\_\_\_\_\_ boiler mechanic

\_\_\_\_\_ truck driver

\_\_\_\_\_ machine tooler

\_\_\_\_\_ heavy equipment operator

\_\_\_\_\_ landscaper

\_\_\_\_\_ pest control

\_\_\_\_\_ electrician

\_\_\_\_\_ painter

\_\_\_\_\_ environmental technician

\_\_\_\_\_ utility worker

\_\_\_\_\_ heating, ventilation and  
refrigeration mechanic

**Are there other nontraditional careers you are interested in?**

I am:

(Check those that are true for you.)

\_\_\_ a person who likes to take on challenges.

\_\_\_ in good physical health or fitness.

\_\_\_ a person who needs to earn more than \$6.00 per hour to support yourself and your family.

\_\_\_ a person who needs to have access to health care and other benefits.

\_\_\_ willing to explore new things, new places, new people.

**Total number of answers checked:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have checked 2 or more of these qualities, nontraditional employment may be for you!

**When you hear or read about a woman who has taken a job that is not traditional for women, what is your reaction?**

Very Positive \_\_\_ Somewhat Positive \_\_\_ Somewhat Negative \_\_\_ Very Negative

Briefly explain your answer.

## Information

**The more information you have about a career, the better!**

We invite you to explore the many nontraditional career opportunities available to you. There are programs in your community which can offer you:

- nontraditional career exploration
- hands-on training
- support from women experienced in nontraditional occupations (notably the trades)
- information about apprenticeship opportunities
- job placement.

**For further information, contact (name/address/phone)**

I am interested in learning more about nontraditional job opportunities

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

### Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

This self-assessment questionnaire was developed by Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) and is being used by the Sacramento County Assessment Network. It can be adapted for use by other communities, with an acknowledgment to WOW. This assessment can be also be tailored to fit local programs with information and labor market conditions.